

surface, and side faces of the female body and the male body when the female body engages with the male body,

wherein the concave portion or the convex portion is formed at a center of the butting portions sandwiched by the straight portions,

the convex portion in the butting portions protrudes in a trapezoidal form in which a front end is slightly narrowed, while the concave portion is concavely dented with the inlet expanded, and

the female body and the male body are thereby formed closely in contact at the butting portions.

Sub C1 3. (Amended) The buckle according to claim 1, wherein butting portions comprising the straight portions and the concave portion or the convex portion are formed on both front and rear surfaces of the female body and the male body.

Sub C1 11. (Amended) The buckle according to claim 8, characterized in that the concave portion disposed at the center of the male body is formed concavely up to the belt through hole, while the convex portion of the upper plate of the female body is extended to a top surface of the belt through hole or a top surface of a hooking rod.

REMARKS

With the above Amendment, claims 1, 3-4, and 7-11 are pending in the case. In the Office Action of May 23, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, and 8 under 35

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